

- Have you ever had someone you love, someone you really care about, move far away? Maybe a family member or friend gets a new job and has to relocate. Maybe a child goes off to live away at college.
- If you have experienced this, you know one of the things you do before they leave is to make plans about how you will stay in touch, how you will remain present in each other's life. We assure the person how important they are and how we want to stay connected.
- So you might agree to text message or talk by phone regularly, friend each other on Facebook, plan visits a few times each year.
- Well today's Gospel is kind of like this. Jesus knows the time is approaching when He will ascend to heaven. And He is speaking to His disciples, His dearest friends, about His plans to stay in touch, remain present in their lives.
- Jesus explains how his will work by telling them about a new experience they are about to have. Jesus tells them about a new aspect, a new dimension to God that they didn't know about before now.
- Jesus tells those disciples (and each of us) if we love Him and trust Him – If we really want to follow His teachings (His Word) - If we want to continue to hear His voice, have Him really present, He will help us. It can happen!!!
- How? God will send the Holy Spirit, God's Spirit. This new aspect of God, that His followers knew nothing about, until that moment.
- Then Jesus tells them a very simple, powerful and mysterious truth: By the power of the Holy Spirit, God: Father, Son and Spirit- will dwell in them. Will be *in* their very souls, *closer* than ever before.
- And God will remind them of everything Jesus taught. And God will continue to teach them everything they still need to learn.
- Think of how amazing this was for them to hear. One God, three Persons – Father, Son and Holy Spirit. Sometimes we take this amazing fact for granted because we were taught it at a very early age. We say we believe this every time we make the sign of

the cross +. We have come to know that if any one person of the three is with us – all of the three- the full essence of God is with us. A mystery for sure but also a powerful truth.

- And this truth changed everything for those disciples and it changes everything for us.
- It makes very clear who we are and what we are here for. Listen to Jesus' words again: " On that day you will realize that I am in my Father and you are in me and I in you". That's us He is talking about!!
- In other words, there is something of God inside each of us and that is amazing. There is something of trinity – Father, Son and Spirit in you and me – *it is who we are!!*
- Right here, right now, we are called to be a place where God lives. We are called to make a place for God in our hearts as St. Peter reminds us in our second reading today. Peter tells us: "Sanctify Christ as Lord in your hearts". Create a special place in your heart and go there often, pray there, learn there.
- And the fact that God dwells in us makes it clear *why we are here*, what our purpose in life is.
- We are here to be creators. We are called to use the gifts and talents God has given us to create as God the Father creates. Our hearts beat about 155,00 times each day-because God says so. In the dead of winter trees still pump oxygen into the air for us to breath – because God says so. God is constantly creating. And so we are called to create. Create beauty in the world. Create loving relationships at home, school, and work. Fight against what devalues and destroys life. Reject hatred, violence prejudice – create peace.
- Having God dwell in us means we are here to be the presence of Jesus. Make His teachings our way of life. Look for opportunities to love and serve others. It means we are here to bring Jesus' compassion and mercy and healing to those in need: the poor, the sick, and the elderly. We are here to perform a simple act of love each day.
- And finally having God dwell in us means we are here to be like the Holy Spirit. That means we are called to lead others to God. We are here to be counselors, teachers, guides – to help others see God in the world and in their own lives. We are here to let others know: God loves them; God sees them as valuable and important. There is a world full of people longing to hear these

words. Longing to have someone tell them: “ God loves you, you matter”. We can tell them that!!

- As Spirit we are called to defend and spread the Gospel message. Called to speak up for things like marriage, the right to life, equality, social justice and care for the poor.
- We are here to let the Spirit work in and through us. We just need to listen carefully, look closely at the people and situations God placed in our lives. Then as St. Therese reminds us: “Grow where you are planted”.
- There really is something of God – Father, Son and Spirit in each of us. Knowing this has to change the way we look at others and ourselves. How could it not? How could we not place a tremendous value on our own life and the lives of all those around us once we know “ that is where God dwells”.
- A simple, powerful, mysterious and beautiful truth to live by !!

Amen